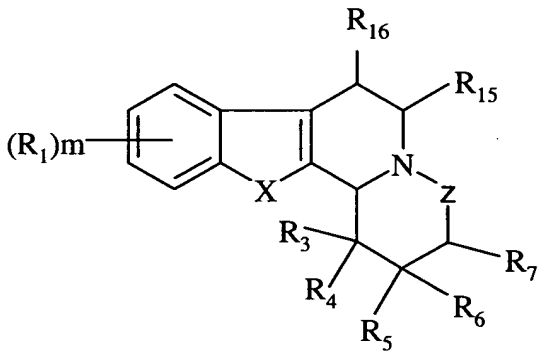
Amendments to the claims:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in this application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for the treatment of a disease or condition where an antagonist of the alpha-2 adrenoceptor is indicated to be useful, which comprises administering to a patient in need of the treatment an effective amount of ~~Use of~~ a compound of formula I,



I

wherein,

X is CR_2R_2', O, S or NR_2;

Z is $-CHR_8-(CH_2)n-$ or a single bond;

R_1 is hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, halogen, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-, CN, NO_2, NH_2, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino or carboxyl;

R_2 and R_2' are independently H, hydroxy or (C_1-C_6)alkyl or R_2 and R_2' form, together with the carbon ring atoms to which they are attached, a carbonyl group;

R_3 is H, hydroxy, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2$-$C_6)$alkenyl, hydroxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, hydroxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_3$-$C_7)$cycloalkyl, $(C_3$-$C_7)$cycloalkyl$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, aryl, aryl$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, aryloxy, aryl$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, aryloxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, aryl$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, halo$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, NH_2, amino$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, mono- or di$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkylamino,mono- or di$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkylamino$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-CO-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-CO-O-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-CO-O-$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy-CO-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy-CO-$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy-CO-$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, carbamoyl, mono- or di$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkylcarbamoyl, carboxyl or $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-S-$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, wherein the said $(C_3$-$C_7)$cycloalkyl or aryl is unsubstituted or substituted with 1 or 2 substituents each independently being hydroxy, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, halogen, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, NH_2, CN or NO_2, or one of R_3 or R_4 and R_6 together form a bond between the ring atoms to which they are attached;

R_4 is H, hydroxy, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, hydroxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy or $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl;

R_5 is H, hydroxy, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2$-$C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_3$-$C_7)$cycloalkyl, $(C_3$-$C_7)$cycloalkyl$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, aryl, aryl$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, aryloxy, aryl$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, aryloxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, aryl$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, halo$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-CO-O-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-CO-O-$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy-CO-$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, carbamoyl, mono- or di$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkylcarbamoyl, carboxyl or $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-S-$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, wherein the said $(C_3$-$C_7)$cycloalkyl or aryl is unsubstituted or substituted with 1 or 2 substituents each independently being hydroxy, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, halogen, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, NH_2, CN or NO_2, or R_4 and R_5 form, together with the carbon ring atoms to which they are attached, a condensed five to seven membered saturated carbocyclic ring substituted with 1 to 3 substituent(s) R_9 each independently being hydroxy, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, halogen, NH_2, NO_2, $(C_3$-$C_7)$cycloalkyl, hydroxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, halo$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, amino$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, mono- or di$(C_1$-

C_6)alkylamino, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, carboxyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-O-, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, carbamoyl mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylcarbamoyl or oxo;

R_6 is H, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy or (C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl or R_6 forms a bond between the ring atom to which it is attached and the ring atom to which R_7 is attached;

R_7 is H, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, hydroxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy or (C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl;

R_8 is H,hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, hydroxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy or (C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl or, only when n is 0, R_7 and R_8 form, together with the carbon ring atoms to which they are attached, a condensed five to seven membered saturated carbocyclic ring unsubstituted or substituted with 1 to 3 substituent(s) R_{10} each independently being hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, halogen, NH_2, NO_2, (C_3-C_7)cycloalkyl, hydroxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, amino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, carboxyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-O-, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, carbamoyl, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylcarbamoyl or oxo;

R_{15} is H, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, hydroxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, hydroxy(C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, amino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-O-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-(C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, carbamoyl, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylcarbamoyl or carboxyl;

R_{16} is H or (C_1-C_6)alkyl;

R_7 and R_8 are attached to the carbon ring atoms, which are adjacent;

m is 0 to 2; and

n is 0 or 1,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof, with the proviso, that the compound is not 1,2,3,4,5,10b-hexahydro-10-thia-3a-aza-cyclopenta[a]fluorine~~,~~

~~for the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment of diseases or conditions where antagonists of alpha-2 adrenoceptors are indicated to be useful~~.

2. (Currently Amended) A method ~~The use of a compound~~ according to claim 1, wherein X is NR_2.

3. (Currently Amended) A method ~~The use of a compound~~ according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 or 2~~, wherein m is 0, n is 0, R_2 is H, R_3 is H, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, hydroxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_3-C_7)cycloalkyl, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-O-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO- or (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, R_4 is H, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl or hydroxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, R_5 is H, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl or (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, R_6 is H or (C_1-C_6)alkyl and R_7 is H, (C_1-C_6)alkyl or hydroxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl.

4. (Currently Amended) A method ~~The use of a compound~~ according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein R_3 is H or (C_1-C_6)alkyl and R_4 is hydroxy or hydroxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl.

5. (Currently Amended) A method ~~The use of a compound~~ according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 or 2~~, wherein R_4 and R_5 form, together with the carbon ring atoms to which they are attached, a condensed six membered saturated carbocyclic ring.

6. (Currently Amended) A method ~~The use of a compound~~ according to any claim 1 ~~one of claims 1 or 2~~, wherein R_4 and R_6 together form a bond between the ring atoms to which they are attached or R_6 forms a bond between the ring atom to which it is attached and the ring atom to which R_7 is attached.

7. (Currently Amended) A method ~~The use of a compound~~ according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~, wherein the compound is 1α-ethyl-1,2,3,4,6,7,12,12bβ-octahydro-indolo[2,3-*a*]quinolizin-1-ol, (1β-ethyl-1,2,3,4,6,7,12,12bα-octahydro-indolo[2,3-*a*]quinolizin-1-yl)-methanol, 1α-Methyl-1,2,3,4,6,7,12,12bβ-octahydroindolo[2,3-*a*]quinolizin-1-ol, (1α-Methyl-1,2,3,4,6,7,12,12bβ-octahydroindolo[2,3-*a*]quinolizin-1-yl)-methanol or 3,4,4aβ, 5,6,7,8,13,13bβ,13cα-decahydro-2H-6a,13-diaza-indeno[1,2-*c*]phenanthren-1-one.

8. (Currently Amended) A method ~~The use of a compound~~ according to claim 1, wherein X is CR_2R_2'.

9. (Currently Amended) A method ~~The use of a compound~~ according to claim 1, wherein X is O

10. (Currently Amended) A method ~~The use of a compound~~ according to claim 1, wherein X is S.

11. A method ~~The use of a compound~~ according to claim 1, which comprises ~~any one of claims 1 to 10, for the manufacture of a medicament for~~ the treatment of a disorder of

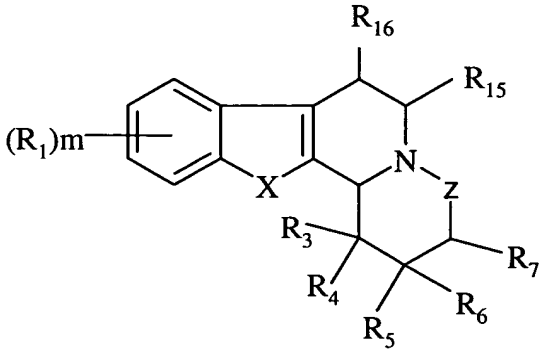
the central nervous system, diabetes, orthostatic hypotension, lipolytic disorder ~~disorders~~, Raynaud's disease or male or ~~and~~ female sexual dysfunctions.

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 11, wherein the disorder of the central nervous system is depression, anxiety disorder ~~disorders~~, post-traumatic stress disorder, schizophrenia, Parkinson's disease, or another movement disorder.

13. (Currently Amended) A method ~~The use of a compound~~ according to claim 1, wherein the compound is ~~any one of claims 1 to 10 for the manufacture of a medicament for use as~~ a selective alpha-2C antagonist.

14. (Currently Amended) A method ~~The use~~ according to claim 13, which comprises ~~for the manufacture of a medicament for~~ the treatment of a mental disorder ~~disorders~~ propagated by stress, Parkinson's disease, depression, negative symptoms of schizophrenia, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, post-traumatic stress-disorder, or anxiety disorder ~~disorders~~.

15. (Original) A compound of formula IA



IA

wherein,

X is CR_2R_2', O or S;

Z is $-CHR_8-(CH_2)n-$ or a single bond;

R_1 is hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, halogen, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-, CN, NO_2, NH_2, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino or carboxyl;

R_2 and R_2' are independently H, hydroxy or (C_1-C_6)alkyl or R_2 and R_2' form, together with the carbon ring atoms to which they are attached, a carbonyl group;

R_3 is H, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, hydroxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, hydroxy(C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_3-C_7)cycloalkyl, (C_3-C_7)cycloalkyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, aryl, aryl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, aryloxy, aryl(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, aryloxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, aryl(C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, NH_2, amino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino,mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-O-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-O-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-(C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, carbamoyl, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylcarbamoyl, carboxyl or (C_1-C_6)alkyl-S-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, wherein the said (C_3-C_7)cycloalkyl or aryl is unsubstituted or substituted with 1 or 2 substituents each independently being hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, halogen, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, NH_2, CN or NO_2, or one of R_3 or R_4 and R_6 together form a bond between the ring atoms to which they are attached;

R_4 is H, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, hydroxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy or (C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl;

R_5 is H, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_3-C_7)cycloalkyl, (C_3-C_7)cycloalkyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, aryl, aryl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, aryloxy, aryl(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, aryloxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, aryl(C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, $(C_1-$

C_6)alkyl-CO-O-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-O-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-(C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, carbamoyl, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylcarbamoyl, carboxyl or (C_1-C_6)alkyl-S-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, wherein the said (C_3-C_7)cycloalkyl or aryl is unsubstituted or substituted with 1 or 2 substituents each independently being hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, halogen, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, NH_2, CN or NO_2, or R_4 and R_5 form, together with the carbon ring atoms to which they are attached, a condensed five to seven membered saturated carbocyclic ring substituted with 1 to 3 substituent(s) R_9 each independently being hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, halogen, NH_2, NO_2, (C_3-C_7)cycloalkyl, hydroxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, amino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, carboxyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-O-, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, carbamoyl mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylcarbamoyl or oxo;

R_6 is H, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy or (C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl or R_6 forms a bond between the ring atom to which it is attached and the ring atom to which R_7 is attached;

R_7 is H, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, hydroxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy or (C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl;

R_8 is H,hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, hydroxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy or (C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl or, only when n is 0, R_7 and R_8 form, together with the carbon ring atoms to which they are attached, a condensed five to seven membered saturated carbocyclic ring unsubstituted or substituted with 1 to 3 substituent(s) R_{10} each independently being hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, halogen, NH_2, NO_2, (C_3-C_7)cycloalkyl, hydroxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, amino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl,

carboxyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-O-, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, carbamoyl, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylcarbamoyl or oxo;

R_{15} is H, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, hydroxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, hydroxy(C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, amino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-O-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-(C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, carbamoyl, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylcarbamoyl or carboxyl;

R_{16} is H or (C_1-C_6)alkyl;

R_7 and R_8 are attached to the carbon ring atoms, which are adjacent;

m is 0 to 2; and

n is 0 or 1,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ester thereof, with the provisos, that

a) when X is O, m is 0 and n is 0, then R_3-R_8 are not all simultaneously hydrogen;

b) the compound is not 1,2,3,4,5,10b-hexahydro-10-thia-3a-aza-cyclopenta[a]fluorene; 1,3,4,5,6,11b-hexahydro-2H-11-thia-4a-aza-benzo[a]fluorene; 1-(1,3,4,5,6,11b-hexahydro-2H-11-thia-4a-aza-benzo[a]fluoren-1-yl)-ethanone or 1,3,4,5,6,11b-hexahydro-2H-11-thia-4a-aza-benzo[a]fluorene-1-carboxylic acid methyl ester.

16. (Original) A compound according to claim 15, wherein X is CR_2R_2'.

17. (Original) A compound according to claim 15, wherein X is O.

18. (Original) A compound according to claim 15, wherein X is S.

19. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 15 ~~any one of claims 15 to 18~~, wherein R_3 is hydroxy, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, hydroxy$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy-CO- or $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-CO-O-$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl and R_4 is H, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl or hydroxy$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl.

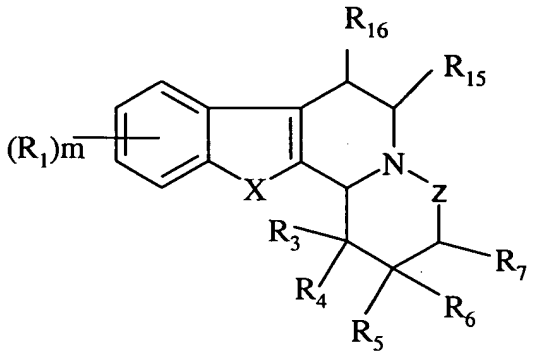
20. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 15 ~~any one of claims 15 to 19~~, wherein R_3 is hydroxy, hydroxy$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl or $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl and R_4 is $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl.

21. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 15 ~~any one of claims 15 to 18~~, wherein R_4 and R_5 form, together with the carbon ring atoms to which they are attached, a condensed six membered saturated carbocyclic ring.

22. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 15 ~~any one of claims 15 to 21~~, wherein the compound is 1α-Methyl-1,3,4,5,6,11b-hexahydro-2H-11-oxa-4a-aza-benzo[a]fluoren-1-ol, (1α-Methyl-1,3,4,5,6,11bβ-hexahydro-2H-11-oxa-4a-aza-benzo[*a*]fluoren-1-yl)-methanol, (-)-(1α-Methyl-1,3,4,5,6,11bβ-hexahydro-2H-11-oxa-4a-aza-benzo[*a*]fluoren-1-yl)-methanol, (+)-(1α-Methyl-1,3,4,5,6,11bβ-hexahydro-2H-11-oxa-4a-aza-benzo[*a*]fluoren-1-yl)-methanol, 1α-Isopropyl-1,3,4,5,6,11b-Hexahydro-2H-11-oxa-4a-aza-benzo[a]fluoren-1-ol, 1α-Ethyl-1,3,4,5,6,11bß-hexahydro-2H-11-oxa-4a-aza-benzo[a]fluoren-1-ol, (1α-Ethyl-1,3,4,5,6,11bß-hexahydro-2H-11-oxa-4a-aza-benzo[a]fluoren-1-yl)-methanol, 1-Methyl-1α,3,4,6,11bß-hexahydro-2H-11-oxa-4a-aza-benzo[*a*]fluorene, (1-Hydroxymethyl-1,3,4,5,6,11b-hexahydro-2H-11-oxa-4a-aza-

benzo[*a*]fluoren-1-yl]-methanol, 1-Methoxymethyl-1α-methyl-1,3,4,5,6,11bß-hexahydro-2H-11-oxa-4a-aza-benzo[*a*]fluorene, (-)-1-Methoxymethyl-1α-methyl-1,3,4,5,6,11bß-hexahydro-2H-11-oxa-4a-aza-benzo[*a*]fluorene, (+)-1-Methoxymethyl-1α-methyl-1,3,4,5,6,11bß-hexahydro-2H-11-oxa-4a-aza-benzo[*a*]fluorene, 1α-Methyl-1,3,4,5,6,11bα-hexahydro-2H-11-oxa-4a-aza-benzo[*a*]fluorene-1-carboxylic acid ethyl ester, 1-Ethoxymethyl-1α-methyl-1,3,4,5,6,11bß-hexahydro-2H-11-oxa-4a-aza-benzo[*a*]fluorene, (1α-Methyl-1,3,4,5,6,11bα-hexahydro-2H-11-oxa-4a-aza-benzo[*a*]fluoren-1-yl)-methanol, (-)-(1α-Methyl-1,3,4,5,6,11bα-hexahydro-2H-11-oxa-4a-aza-benzo[*a*]fluoren-1-yl)-methanol, (+)-(1α-Methyl-1,3,4,5,6,11bα-hexahydro-2H-11-oxa-4a-aza-benzo[*a*]fluoren-1-yl)-methanol, 1α-Ethyl -1,3,4,5,6,11bα-hexahydro-2H-11-oxa-4a-aza-benzo[*a*]fluorene-1-carboxylic methyl ester, 1-Methoxymethyl-1α-methyl-1,3,4,5,6,11bα-hexahydro-2H-11-oxa-4a-aza-benzo[*a*]fluorene, (-)-1-Methoxymethyl-1α-methyl-1,3,4,5,6,11bα-hexahydro-2H-11-oxa-4a-aza-benzo[*a*]fluorene, (+)-1-Methoxymethyl-1α-methyl-1,3,4,5,6,11bα -hexahydro-2H-11-oxa-4a-aza-benzo[*a*]fluorene, (1α-Ethyl-1,3,4,5,6,11bα-hexahydro-2H-11-oxa-4a-aza-benzo[*a*]fluorene-1-yl)-methanol, acetic acid 1α-Methyl-1,3,4,5,6,11bß-hexahydro-2H-11-oxa-4a-aza-benzo[a]fluoren-1-ylmethyl ester or (1α-Methyl-1,2,3,4,6,7,12,12bα-octahydroindeno[2,1-*a*]quinolizin-1-yl)-methanol.

23. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula IB



IB

wherein,

X is NR_2;

R_2 is $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl;

Z is $-CHR_8\text{-}(CH_2)n-$ or a single bond;

R_1 is hydroxy, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy, halogen, halo$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy-CO-, CN, NO_2, NH_2, mono- or di$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkylamino or carboxyl;

R_3 is H, hydroxy, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2\text{-}C_6)$alkenyl, hydroxy$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, hydroxy$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_3\text{-}C_7)$cycloalkyl, $(C_3\text{-}C_7)$cycloalkyl$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, aryl, aryl$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, aryloxy, aryl$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy, aryloxy$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, aryl$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, halo$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, NH_2, amino$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, mono- or di$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkylamino,mono- or di$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkylamino$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-CO-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-CO-O-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl-CO-O-$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy-CO-, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy-CO-$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy-CO-$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkoxy$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl, carbamoyl, mono- or di$(C_1\text{-}$

C_6)alkylcarbamoyl, carboxyl or (C_1-C_6)alkyl-S-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, wherein the said (C_3-C_7)cycloalkyl or aryl is unsubstituted or substituted with 1 or 2 substituents each independently being hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, halogen, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, NH_2, CN or NO_2, or one of R_3 or R_4 and R_6 together form a bond between the ring atoms to which they are attached;

R_4 is H, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, hydroxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy or (C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl;

R_5 is H, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_3-C_7)cycloalkyl, (C_3-C_7)cycloalkyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, aryl, aryl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, aryloxy, aryl(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, aryloxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, aryl(C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-O-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-O-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-(C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, carbamoyl, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylcarbamoyl, carboxyl or (C_1-C_6)alkyl-S-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, wherein the said (C_3-C_7)cycloalkyl or aryl is unsubstituted or substituted with 1 or 2 substituents each independently being hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, halogen, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, NH_2, CN or NO_2, or R_4 and R_5 form, together with the carbon ring atoms to which they are attached, a condensed five to seven membered saturated carbocyclic ring substituted with 1 to 3 substituent(s) R_9 each independently being hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, halogen, NH_2, NO_2, (C_3-C_7)cycloalkyl, hydroxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, amino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, carboxyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-O-, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, carbamoyl mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylcarbamoyl or oxo;

R_6 is H, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy or (C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl or R_6 forms a bond between the ring atom to which it is attached and the ring atom to which R_7 is attached;

R_7 is H, hydroxy, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, hydroxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy or $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl;

R_8 is H,hydroxy, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, hydroxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy or $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl or, only when n is 0, R_7 and R_8 form, together with the carbon ring atoms to which they are attached, a condensed five to seven membered saturated carbocyclic ring unsubstituted or substituted with 1 to 3 substituent(s) R_{10} each independently being hydroxy, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, halogen, NH_2, NO_2, $(C_3$-$C_7)$cycloalkyl, hydroxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, halo$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, amino$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, mono- or di$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkylamino, mono- or di$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkylamino$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, carboxyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-CO-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-CO-O-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy-CO-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy-CO-$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, carbamoyl, mono- or di$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkylcarbamoyl or oxo;

R_{15} is H, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2$-$C_6)$alkenyl, hydroxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, hydroxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, halo$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, amino$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, mono- or di$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkylamino$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-CO-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-CO-O-$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy-CO-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy-CO-$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy-CO-$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, carbamoyl, mono- or di$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkylcarbamoyl or carboxyl;

R_{16} is H or $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl;

R_7 and R_8 are attached to the carbon ring atoms, which are adjacent;

m is 0 to 2; and

n is 0 or 1,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ~~and~~ ester thereof, with the provisos, that

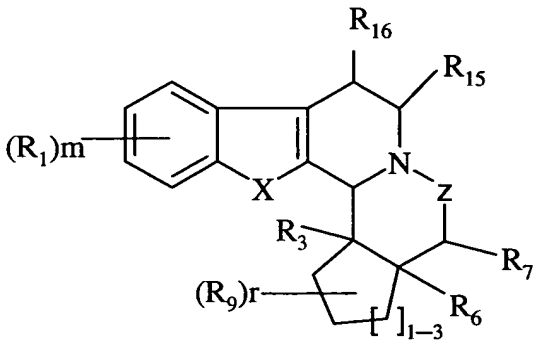
a) when m is 0 or R_1 is methoxy and R_4 is H or ethyl, then R_3 is not methoxy-CO;

b) the compound is not 12-Methyl-1,2,3,4,6,7,12,12b-octahydro-indolo[2,3-*a*]quinolizine; 1-Ethyl-12-methyl-1,2,3,4,6,7,12,12b-octahydro-indolo[2,3-*a*]quinolizine; 2,3-Diethyl-12-methyl-1,2,3,4,6,7,12,12b-octahydro-indolo[2,3-*a*]quinolizine; 12-Methyl-1,2,3,4,6,7,12,12b-octahydro-indolo[2,3-*a*]quinolizin-1-ol; 2-(1-Ethyl-12-methyl-1,2,3,4,6,7,12,12b-octahydro-indolo[2,3-*a*]quinolizin-1-yl)-ethanol; 11-Methyl-2,3,5,6,11,11b-hexahydro-1H-indolizino[8,7-*b*]indole; (11-Methyl-2,3,5,6,11,11b-hexahydro-1H-indolizino[8,7-*b*]indol-1-yl)-methanol, (1,11-Diethyl-2,3,5,6,11,11b-hexahydro-1H-indolizino[8,7-*b*]indol-1-yl)-methanol or 3-(1-ethyl-12-methyl-1,2,3,4,6,7,12,12b-octahydro-indolo[2,3-*a*]quinolizin-1-yl)-propionic acid methyl ester.

24. (Original) A compound according to claim 23, wherein R_3 is hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, hydroxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl or (C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl and R_4 is H, (C_1-C_6)alkyl or hydroxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl.

25. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 23 ~~any one of claims 23 or 24~~, wherein the compound is 1α-Ethyl-12-methyl-1,2,3,4,6,7,12bß-octahydro-indolo[2,3-*a*]quinolizin-1-ol or 1α-Ethyl-12-ethyl-1,2,3,4,6,7,12bß-octahydro-indolo[2,3-*a*]quinolizin-1-ol.

26. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula IC



IC

wherein,

X is NR_2;

R_2 is H;

Z is $-CHR_8-(CH_2)n-$ or a single bond;

n is 0;

R_1 is hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, halogen, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-, CN, NO_2, NH_2, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino or carboxyl;

R_3 is H, hydroxy, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2$-$C_6)$alkenyl, hydroxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, hydroxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_3$-$C_7)$cycloalkyl, $(C_3$-$C_7)$cycloalkyl$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, aryl, aryl$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, aryloxy, aryl$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, aryloxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, aryl$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, halo$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, NH_2, amino$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, mono- or di$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkylamino,mono- or di$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkylamino$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-CO-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-CO-O-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-CO-O-$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy-CO-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy-CO-$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy-CO-$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, carbamoyl, mono- or di$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkylcarbamoyl, carboxyl or $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-S-$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, wherein the said $(C_3$-$C_7)$cycloalkyl or aryl is unsubstituted or substituted with 1 or 2 substituents each independently being hydroxy, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, halogen, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, NH_2, CN or NO_2, or R_3 and R_6 together form a bond between the ring atoms to which they are attached;

R_6 is H, hydroxy, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy or $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl or R_6 forms a bond between the ring atom to which it is attached and the ring atom to which R_7 is attached;

R_7 is H, hydroxy, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, hydroxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy or $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl;

R_8 is H,hydroxy, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, hydroxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy or $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl or, only when n is 0, R_7 and R_8 form, together with the carbon ring atoms to which they are attached, a condensed five to seven membered saturated carbocyclic ring unsubstituted or substituted with 1 to 3 substituent(s) R_{10} each independently being hydroxy, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, halogen, NH_2, NO_2, $(C_3$-$C_7)$cycloalkyl, hydroxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, halo$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, amino$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, mono- or di$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkylamino, mono- or di$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkylamino$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl,

carboxyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-O-, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, carbamoyl, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylcarbamoyl or oxo;

R_9 is hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, halogen, NH_2, NO_2, (C_3-C_7)cycloalkyl, hydroxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, amino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, carboxyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-O-, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, carbamoyl mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylcarbamoyl or oxo;

R_{15} is H, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, hydroxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, hydroxy(C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, amino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-O-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-(C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, carbamoyl, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylcarbamoyl or carboxyl;

R_{16} is H or (C_1-C_6)alkyl;

R_7 and R_8 are attached to the carbon ring atoms, which are adjacent;

m is 0 to 2; and

r is 1 to 3;

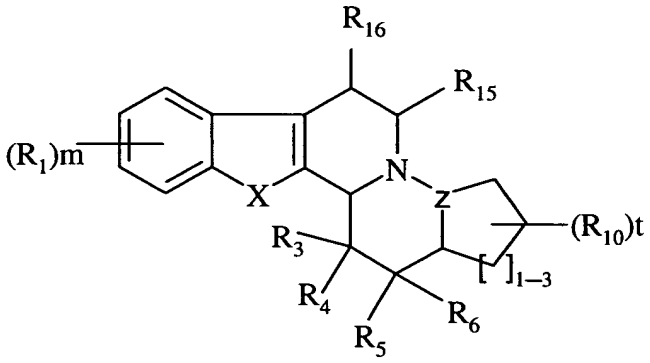
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt <u>or</u> ~~and~~ ester thereof, with the provisos, that the compound is not 10-methyl-5,7,7a,8,9,10,11,11a,11b,12-decahydro-6H-6a,12-diaza-indeno[1,2-*a*]fluorene; 3-hydroxy-1,2,3,4,4a,5,6,7,8,13,13b,13c-dodecahydro-6a,13-diaza-indeno[1,2-c]phenanthrene-4-carboxylic acid methyl ester; methyl-3-ethyl-1,2,3a,4,6,7,12b,12c-octahydro-3H,12H-indolo[2,3-*g*]cyclopent[a]indolizine-2-carboxylate;

methyl-1,2,3a,4,6,7,12b,12c-octahydro-3H,12H-indolo[2,3-*g*]cyclopent[a]indolizine-2-carboxylate or 12c-ethyl-1,3a,4,6,7,12b,12c-octahydro-cyclopent[1,2]indolizino[8,7-b]indol-3(2H)-one.

27. (Original) A compound according to claim 26, wherein r is 1 and R_3 is H, hydroxy, $(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl or hydroxy$(C_1\text{-}C_6)$alkyl.

28. (Currently Amended) A compound according to claim 26 ~~any one of claims 26 or 27~~, wherein the compound is 3,4,4aß,5,6,7,8,13,13bß,13cα-decahydro-2H-6a,13-diaza-indeno[1,2-*c*]phenanthren-1-one, 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,13,13b-decahydro-6a,13-diaza-indeno[1,2-*c*]phenanthrene, acetic acid 1α,2,3,4,4aß,5,6,7,8,13,13bß,13cα-dodecahydro-6a,13-diaza-indeno[1,2-*c*]phenanthren-1-yl ester or acetic acid 1ß,2,3,4,4aß,5,6,7,8,13,13bß,13cα-dodecahydro-6a,13-diaza-indeno[1,2-*c*]phenanthren-1-yl ester.

29. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula ID



ID

wherein,

X is NR_2;

R_2 is H;

Z is -CH-(CH_2)n-;

n is 0;

R_1 is hydroxy, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, halogen, halo$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy-CO-, CN, NO_2, NH_2, mono- or di$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkylamino or carboxyl;

R_3 is H, hydroxy, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2$-$C_6)$alkenyl, hydroxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, hydroxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_3$-$C_7)$cycloalkyl, $(C_3$-$C_7)$cycloalkyl$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, aryl, aryl$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, aryloxy, aryl$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, aryloxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, aryl$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, halo$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, NH_2, amino$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, mono- or di$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkylamino,mono- or di$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkylamino$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-CO-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-CO-O-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-CO-O-$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy-CO-, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy-CO-$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy-CO-$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, carbamoyl, mono- or di$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkylcarbamoyl, carboxyl or $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl-S-$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, wherein the said $(C_3$-$C_7)$cycloalkyl or aryl is unsubstituted or substituted with 1 or 2 substituents each independently being hydroxy, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, halogen, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, NH_2, CN or NO_2, or one of R_3 or R_4 and R_6 together form a bond between the ring atoms to which they are attached;

R_4 is H, hydroxy, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, hydroxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy or $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl;

R_5 is H, hydroxy, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_2$-$C_6)$alkenyl, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, $(C_3$-$C_7)$cycloalkyl, $(C_3$-$C_7)$cycloalkyl$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, aryl, aryl$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, aryloxy,

aryl(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, aryloxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, aryl(C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-O-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-O-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-(C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, carbamoyl, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylcarbamoyl, carboxyl or (C_1-C_6)alkyl-S-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, wherein the said (C_3-C_7)cycloalkyl or aryl is unsubstituted or substituted with 1 or 2 substituents each independently being hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, halogen, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, NH_2, CN or NO_2, or R_4 and R_5 form, together with the carbon ring atoms to which they are attached, a condensed five to seven membered saturated carbocyclic ring substituted with 1 to 3 substituent(s) R_9 each independently being hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, halogen, NH_2, NO_2, (C_3-C_7)cycloalkyl, hydroxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, amino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, carboxyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-O-, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, carbamoyl mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylcarbamoyl or oxo;

R_6 is H, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy or (C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl or R_6 forms a bond between the ring atom to which it is attached and the ring atom to which R_7 is attached;

R_{10} is hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, halogen, NH_2, NO_2, (C_3-C_7)cycloalkyl, hydroxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, amino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, carboxyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-O-, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, carbamoyl, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylcarbamoyl or oxo;

R_{15} is H, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, hydroxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, hydroxy(C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, amino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-O-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-

CO-, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-(C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, carbamoyl, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylcarbamoyl or carboxyl;

R_{16} is H or (C_1-C_6)alkyl;

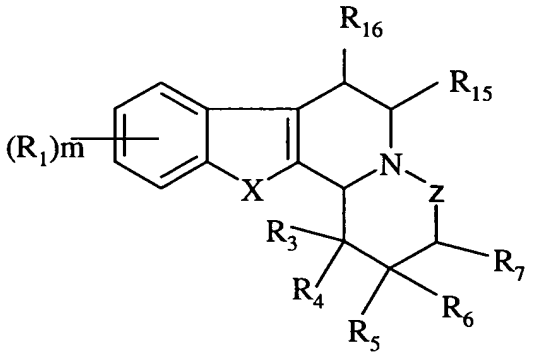
R_7 and R_8 are attached to the carbon ring atoms, which are adjacent;

m is 0 to 2; and

t is 0 to 3;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ~~and~~ ester thereof, with the provisos, that the compound is not 1,2,3,4,4a,5,6,11,11b,12,13,13a-dodecahydro-4b,11-diaza-indeno[2,1-*a*]phenanthrene; 1,2,3,4,4a,5,6,11,11b,12-decahydro-4b,11-diaza-indeno[2,1-*a*]phenanthrene; 9-methoxy-1,2,3,4,4a,5,6,11,11b,12-decahydro-4b,11-diaza-indeno[2,1-*a*]phenanthrene or 1-hydroxy-1,2,3,4,4a,5,6,11,11b,12,13,13a-dodecahydro-4b,11-diaza-indeno[2,1-*a*]phenanthrene-2-carboxylic acid methyl ester.

30. (Currently Amended) A compound of formula IE



IE

wherein,

X is NR_2;

R_2 is H;

Z is $-CHR_8-(CH_2)n-$ or a single bond;

R_1 is hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, halogen, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-, CN, NO_2, NH_2, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino or carboxyl;

R_3 is H, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, hydroxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, hydroxy(C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_3-C_7)cycloalkyl, (C_3-C_7)cycloalkyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, aryl, aryl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, aryloxy, aryl(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, aryloxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, aryl(C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, NH_2, amino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino,mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-O-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-O-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-(C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, carbamoyl, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylcarbamoyl, carboxyl or (C_1-C_6)alkyl-S-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, wherein the said (C_3-C_7)cycloalkyl or aryl is unsubstituted or substituted with 1 or 2 substituents each independently being hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, halogen, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, NH_2, CN or NO_2, or one of R_3 or R_4 and R_6 together form a bond between the ring atoms to which they are attached;

R_4 is H, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, hydroxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy or (C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl;

R_5 is H, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_3-C_7)cycloalkyl, (C_3-C_7)cycloalkyl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, aryl, aryl(C_1-C_6)alkyl, aryloxy, aryl(C_1-C_6)alkoxy, aryloxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, aryl(C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-O-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-O-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-(C_1-C_6)alkoxy$(C_1-$

C_6)alkyl, carbamoyl, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylcarbamoyl, carboxyl or (C_1-C_6)alkyl-S-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, wherein the said (C_3-C_7)cycloalkyl or aryl is unsubstituted or substituted with 1 or 2 substituents each independently being hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, halogen, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, NH_2, CN or NO_2, or R_4 and R_5 form, together with the carbon ring atoms to which they are attached, a condensed five to seven membered saturated carbocyclic ring substituted with 1 to 3 substituent(s) R_9 each independently being hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, halogen, NH_2, NO_2, (C_3-C_7)cycloalkyl, hydroxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, amino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, carboxyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-O-, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, carbamoyl mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylcarbamoyl or oxo;

R_6 is H, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy or (C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl or R_6 forms a bond between the ring atom to which it is attached and the ring atom to which R_7 is attached;

R_7 is H, hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, hydroxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy or (C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl;

R_8 is H,hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, hydroxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy or (C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl or, only when n is 0, R_7 and R_8 form, together with the carbon ring atoms to which they are attached, a condensed five to seven membered saturated carbocyclic ring unsubstituted or substituted with 1 to 3 substituent(s) R_{10} each independently being hydroxy, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, halogen, NH_2, NO_2, (C_3-C_7)cycloalkyl, hydroxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, amino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl,

carboxyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-O-, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, carbamoyl, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylcarbamoyl or oxo;

R_{15} is H, (C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_2-C_6)alkenyl, hydroxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, hydroxy(C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, halo(C_1-C_6)alkyl, amino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylamino(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-, (C_1-C_6)alkyl-CO-O-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, (C_1-C_6)alkoxy-CO-(C_1-C_6)alkoxy(C_1-C_6)alkyl, carbamoyl, mono- or di(C_1-C_6)alkylcarbamoyl or carboxyl;

R_{16} is H or (C_1-C_6)alkyl;

R_7 and R_8 are attached to the carbon ring atoms, which are adjacent;

m is 0 to 2; and

n is 1,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or ~~and~~ ester thereof, with the proviso, that the compound is not 2,3,4,5,7,8,13,13b-octahydro-2,3-diethyl-1H-azepino[1',2':1,2]pyrido[3,4-*b*]indole; acetic acid 2,3,4,5,7,8,13,13b-octahydro-1H-azepino[1',2':1,2]pyrido[3,4-*b*]indol-2-ylmethyl ester; 2,3,4,5,7,8,13,13b-octahydro-1H-azepino[1',2':1,2]pyrido[3,4-*b*]indole-2-[(phenylmethoxy)methyl] or 2,3,4,5,7,8,13,13b-octahydro-1H-azepino[1',2':1,2]pyrido[3,4-*b*]indole-4-ethyl-2-[(phenylmethoxy)methyl].

31. (Original) A compound according to claim 30, wherein the compound is 2,3,4,5,7,8,13,13b-octahydro-1H-azepino[1',2':1,2]pyrido[3,4-*b*]indole.

32. (Original) A compound which is 2ß-Methoxy-1,2,3,4,6,7,12,12bα-octahydro-indolo[2,3-*a*]quinolizine, 2α-methoxy-1,2,3,4,6,7,12,12bα-octahydro-indolo[2,3-*a*]quinolizine,

1α-Ethyl-2α-methyl-1,2,3,4,6,7,12,12bβ-octahydro-indolo[2,3-*a*]quinolizin-1-ol, 1α-Isopropyl-1,2,3,4,6,7,12,12bβ-octahydro-indolo[2,3-*a*]quinolizin-1-ol, (-)-1α-isopropyl-1,2,3,4,6,7,12,12bβ-octahydroindolo[2,3-*a*]quinolizin-1-ol, (+)-1α-isopropyl-1,2,3,4,6,7,12,12bβ-octahydroindolo[2,3-*a*]quinolizin-1-ol, 1β-Isopropyl-1,2,3,4,6,7,12,12bβ-octahydro-indolo[2,3-*a*]quinolizine, (1α-Isopropyl-1,2,3,4,6,7,12,12bβ-octahydro-indolo[2,3-*a*]quinolizin-1-yl)-methanol, (1α- *n*-Propyl-1,2,3,4,6,7,12,12bβ-octahydro-indolo[2,3-*a*]quinolizin-1-yl)-methanol, 2-(1α,2,3,4,6,7,12,12bβ-Octahydro-indolo[2,3-*a*]quinolizin-1-yl)-butan-2-ol, 1-(1,2α,3,4,6,7,12,12bα-Octahydro-indolo[2,3-*a*]quinolizin-2-yl)-propan-1-ol, 2-(1α,2,3,4,6,7,12,12bβ-Octahydro-indolo[2,3-*a*]quinolizin-1-yl)-propan-2-ol, 1-*s*-Butyl-1,2,3,4,6,7,12,12bβ-octahydroindolo[2,3-*a*]quinolizin-1-ol, 1-Cyclohexyl-1,2,3,4,6,7,12,12bβ-octahydroindolo[2,3-*a*]quinolizin-1-ol, 9-Fluoro-1α-isopropyl-1,2,3,4,6,7,12,12bβ-octahydro-indolo[2,3-*a*]quinolizin-1-ol, (1α-Methyl-1,2,3,4,6,7,12,12bβ-octahydroindolo[2,3-*a*]quinolizin-1-yl)-methanol, (-)-(1α-Methyl-1,2,3,4,6,7,12,12bβ-octahydroindolo[2,3-*a*]quinolizin-1-yl)-methanol, (+)-(1α-Methyl-1,2,3,4,6,7,12,12bβ-octahydroindolo[2,3-*a*]quinolizin-1-yl)-methanol, (1α-Ethyl-1,4,6,7,12,12bβ-hexahydroindolo[2,3-*a*]quinolizin-1-yl)-methanol, 3β,4α-Dimethyl-1,2,3,4,6,7,12,12bβ-octahydroindolo[2,3-*a*]quinolizine, (1,2α,3,4,6,7,12,12bα-Octahydroindolo[2,3-*a*]quinolizin-2-yl)-propan-2-ol, (1,2α,3,4,6,7,12,12bβ-Octahydroindolo[2,3-*a*]quinolizin-2-yl)-propan-2-ol, (2α-Ethyl-1,2,3,4,6,7,12,12bα-octahydroindolo[2,3-*a*]quinolizin-2-yl)-methanol, (2α-Ethyl-1,2,3,4,6,7,12,12bβ-octahydroindolo[2,3-*a*]quinolizin-2-yl)-methanol, (1α-Ethyl-1,2,3,4,6,7,12,12bβ-octahydroindolo[2,3-a]quinolizin-1-ylmethoxy)-acetic acid ethyl ester, 1-(2α-ethyl-1,2,3,4,6,7,12,12bα-octahydro-indolo[2,3-*a*]quinolizin-2-yl)-ethanone, 1-(2α-ethyl-1,2,3,4,6,7,12,12bα-octahydro-indolo[2,3-*a*]quinolizin-2-yl)-ethanol, 2-(2α-ethyl-

1,2,3,4,6,7,12,12bα-octahydro-indolo[2,3-*a*]quinolizin-2-yl)-propan-2-ol, 2-(3-ethyl-1,2α,3α,4,6,7,12,12bα-octahydro-indolo[2,3-*a*]quinolizin-2-yl)-propan-2-ol, (3-ethyl-2-methyl-1α,2β,3β,4,6,7,12,12bβ-octahydro-indolo[2,3-*a*]quinolizin-1-yl)-methanol, 3-ethyl-1,2-dimethyl-1α,2β,3β,4,6,7,12,12bβ-octahydro-indolo[2,3-*a*]quinolizine, 1,2-dimethyl-1,2,3,4,6,7,12,12bβ-octahydro-indolo[2,3-*a*]quinolizin-1β-ol, (1-ethyl-2-methyl-1β,2β,3β,4,6,7,12,12bα-octahydro-indolo[2,3-*a*]quinolizin-3-yl)-methanol, 1-β-Hydroxymethyl-1-methyl-1,2,3,4,6,7,12,12bβ-octahydro-indolo[2,3-*a*]quinolizine-6β-carboxylic acid methyl ester, 5,6,7,7aβ,8,9,10,11,11aβ,11bα-Decahydro-12-oxa-6a-aza-indeno[1,2-*a*]fluorene, 2,3,4,4aβ,5,6,7,8,13bβ,13cβ-Decahydro-1H-13-oxa-6a-aza-indeno[1,2-*c*]phenanthrene, 2,3,4,4aβ,5,6,7,8,13bα,13cβ-Decahydro-1H-13-oxa-6a-aza-indeno[1,2-*c*]phenanthrene, 2,3,4,4aβ,5,6,7,8,13,13bβ-decahydro-1H-6a,13-diaza-indeno[1,2-*c*]phenanthren-13cβ-ol, (-)-2,3,4,4aβ,5,6,7,8,13,13bβ-decahydro-1H-6a,13-diaza-indeno[1,2-*c*]phenanthren-13cβ-ol, (+)-2,3,4,4aβ,5,6,7,8,13,13bβ-decahydro-1H-6a,13-diaza-indeno[1,2-*c*]phenanthren-13cβ-ol, (2,3,4,4aβ,5,6,7,8,13,13bβ-Decahydro-1H-6a,13-diaza-indeno[1,2-*c*]phenanthrenyl)-13cβ-methanol or 5,6,7,7a,11,11b,12-Decahydro-6a,12-diaza-indeno[1,2-*a*]fluoren-11a-ol.

33. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one compound according to claim 15 ~~any one of claims 15 to 32~~ and a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent, carrier and/or excipient.

34. (Canceled)

35. (Canceled)

36. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one compound according to claim 23 and a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent, carrier and/or excipient.

37. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one compound according to claim 26 and a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent, carrier and/or excipient.

38. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one compound according to claim 29 and a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent, carrier and/or excipient.

39. (New) A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one compound according to claim 30 and a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent, carrier and/or excipient.